

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 MC-02 ACDA-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10

AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07 /116 W

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R 161440Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4604

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 5970

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UK

SUBJECT: FONMIN FAHMY'S LONDON TALKS

REF CAIRO 5895

1. JUNE 14 LOCAL PRESS CARRIES ASSORTMENT ARTICLES REPORTING
ON DEP PM/FONMIN FAHMY'S TALKS IN LONDON JUNE 10-13. IN
CONJUNCTION WITH REPORT THAT BRITAIN HAS AGREED "IN PRINCIPLE"
TO SUPPLY EGYPT WITH 450 MILLION POUNDS (STERLING) WORTH OF ARMS
STORIES CARRY FAHMY'S RATHER CAUTIOUS PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT
THAT HE "ANTICIPATES THAT THE DEAL BETWEEN EGYPT AND BRITAIN WILL
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BE HONORED". REPORTS ADD THAT, ACCORDING TO LONDON DIPLOMATIC

SOURCES, EGYPT HOPES ARMS DEAL, TO BE FINANCED BY ARAB MILITARY INDUSTRIES ORGANIZATIONS (SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, QATAR AND UAE) WILL INCLUDE ACQUISITION OF LIGHT TAKS, FIGHTER PLANES AND HELICOPTERS AND POSSIBLY SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES. AHAM JUNE 16 CARRIES AVIATION WEEKLY REPORT THAT ONE FOCUS OF ARMS TALKS WAS ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX SOUTH OF CAIRO CAPABLE OF MANUFACTURING 200 "SIDDLEY" HELICOPTERS AND 200 "HAWKER SIDDLEY" TRAINING PLANES. PRESS CARRIES, WITHOUT COMMENT, REPORT OF ISRAELI PM RABIN'S PROTEST TO PRESIDENT FORD OVER BRITISH AND FRENCH ARMS DEALS.

2. JUNE 16 AKHBAR CARRIES DENIAL OF UAW AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO (WHO IS MEMBER/SPOKESMAN OF THE ARAB INDUSTRIALIZATION AUTHORITY) THAT AUTHORITY OR ANY OF ITS REPS ARE CONTRACTING WITH BRITISH FACTORIES, REPRESENTATIVES OF BRITISH MILITARY INDUSTRY OR WITH ANY OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRY FOR THE PURCHASE OF ARMS. HE STATED IN DENIAL THAT PROJECTS ARE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY TEMPORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AUTHORITY.

3. AKHBAR AL-YAWM JUNE 14 CARRIES FRONT PAGE STORY RELATING THAT FAHMY, DURING FIRST MEETING WITH PM WILSON, TOOK HIM TO TASK FOR NOT ADOPTING "POSITIVE POSITION" IN BRITAIN'S ME POLICY. WILSON REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT BRITAIN'S ECONOMIC SITUATION FORCED HER NOT TO CHANGE HER POSITION; HE NEVERTHELESS LATER DISCUSSED FAHMY'S VIEWS WITH HIS SENIOR MINISTERS. DURING SECOND MEETING WITH FAHMY, SO STORY GOES, WILSON INFORMED HIM THAT CABINET HAD INDEED DECIDED INTRODUCE "POSITIVE POLICY" AND WOULD HENCEFORTH COOPERATE WITH EGYPT, PARTICULARLY IN ECONOMIC AND TRADE MATTERS. IN SEPARATE STORY, AKHBAR AL-YAWM REPORTS THAT WILSON HAS INSTRUCTED SEC TREASURY (SIC) THAT BRITAIN WILL CONTRIBUTE "EVEN ON A SMALL SCALE" TO ECONOMIC AID BEING GRANTED TO EGYPT BY OTHERS. LONDON SOURCES LISTED OTHER DONORS AS SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, IRAN, UAE, JAPAN, FRG AND US.

4. AKHBAR AL-YAWM ALSO REPORTS JUNE 14 THAT PRESIDENT SADAT WILL VISIT LONDON IN NOVEMBER.

5. ON ME ISSUES, LOCAL PRESS REPORTS FAHMY'S STATEMENT DURING BBC INTERVIEW THAT HE EXPECTS BRITAIN TO RECOGNIZE PLO.
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HE ADDED DURING INTERVIEW THAT BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR VALUE IN DISCUSSIONS OF "GUARANTEES".

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH LOCAL PRESS DUTIFULLY CARRIED FAHMY'S CAUTIOUS STATEMENT EXPRESSING "HOPE" THAT ARMS DEAL WOULD BE HONORED, TENOR OF WEEKEND'S ARMS DEAL STORIES SLIDE OVER FACT THAT AGREEMENT REACHED "IN PRINCIPLE" ONLY.

MAESTRONE

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